

It would be pretty hard to have
to take a new hand just now
and I guess the scamp knows
it. Saturday Uncle seemed to
improve a little and yesterday
when Ben Harnes and L. Alb. were
up he seemed glad to see them
and held their hands and seemed
to want to say something.
Still the Doctors do not seem
to ^{take} any encouragement.
He is no better about involuntary
discharges, indeed not so conscious
all discharges are involuntary
and Auntie says he does not
seem annoyed about it afterwards
as he did at first. It seems to me
that is a very bad symptom.
He can eat a little crackers and rice
some days, others nothing, still
his strength is not so utterly
gone as one would expect. He
has beef tea one meal regularly.
Aunt Jennie is hardly able to be
about. Has been sick in bed some
of the time. Mrs. Thompson gives
her electricity every day and
spends a great deal of time rubbing
her etc. I live in terror lest Mrs.
J. should leave. What would
become of us then I don't know.
However it is no use to cross a
river till you come to it.
What sad news from C. of the
sudden deaths of Mrs. Bacon
Mrs. Kellogg and Mrs. Smart (mother
of one of Mattie's friends). If I had
been one of the nervous sort

I should
have been
scared into
Pneumonia
I believe.
I had been
having some
slight, very
slight twinges
about the
chest and
watching my
self very
carefully when
the news
came. Was I
not thankful
that I was
not nervous
and could
not be scared
into anything

I don't feel as if I knew any
thing about you or what you were
doing, and I should not wonder
if you had something of the same
feeling, it takes so long to hear. It
is really wonderful that things
can remain in just the same
condition day after day but
they seem to do so, with the exception
of one or two days last week. Friday
Uncle was worse than he has been
at all. That day Gam and two other
chimaere came up to see him.
Gam brought a beautiful bouquet,
but he showed not the slightest
pleasure and did not offer to shake
hands. It was very hard for Auntie
and I thought it a pity they came

as it gave him no pleasure and
her much pain. Suak took a
funny streak and was very un-
willing to wait on them about
lunch. We had part of us taken
lunch in the kitchen as I did
not know exactly how Wash
would feel about being seated
at the table with chinamen
(not but what they are enough
cleverer and more decent than
he is) and I did not care to hear
him talking round the neigh-
-borhood about it. Then I meant
to set the table in dining room
for Auntie, Eddie and Ellettie
and the chinamen, but when
I told Suak to do so he objected
and was so evidently stubborn
that I gave up and took them
all in the kitchen to eat. I am
not at all sure but Suak will
get ahead of me if things remain
as they are much longer. It

so Lizzy & Gill has left Santa's
20 L. M. is left there alone with
13. H. Not a pleasant position
for her but there seems to
be no help for it. Ed said
you told him to tell me that
Rhoda was not going to keep
boarders any more. Is that
all the message you gave him?
What is she going to do. Commit
matrimony or take Miss
Whitcomb's position
Charlie is as bad about
writing as you. I have not
had a line from him for
well I guess he's worse
for I don't think he had
written for two weeks.
I forgot your tooth powder
boxes. Will send one by
mail if you say so, or by
Ed. if he goes down again.
Aunt Jennie gave me a
20. this morning and said
she should not feel happy
at all if I did not take pay
for Miss. I heard. She really
seemed to feel so and as our
expenses are so heavy now I
thought perhaps I should be doing
wrong not to take it. So I shall
be able to keep the meat bill
paid at least. Love to Miss
Baltan Miss Barry and Rhoda.
Tell her I say whatever she is going to do I

I have a letter from Uncle Dennis
which I enclose. You see I am
properly punished for joking across
the continent. You know E.
asked me if I did not wish my
name was black, after telling
about the old chairs, and I
replied that it was as near black
as Sue Tichenor was. It did
not occur to me till after the
letter was gone that it would
be taken to, or rather might
be taken to mean that I was
envious, which I was not.

Tuesday morn. I was so sure
of a letter today from you. I
know you have a great deal
to do, more than you ought
and I should not grumble at
short letters but it is pretty
hard to bear when I don't have
at all. I do feel anxious
about you this ~~very~~ cold
damp weather. A letter
from the City today says Baby
Sue has a very bad cold and
they are afraid of croup. Nellie
very poorly. A new Doctor
talks of suggested liver as
cause of trouble. Aunt Jane
don't seem to have faith.

Elias Gill and his children
and the Bacon children
are to keep house together.



I put in a little
bug 1/2 day. of those
Hickory nuts that you
brought and some
canola seed give
them to Mr. Ellis
please.

Wm. J. ~~W.~~ 25
1880

Mrs. M. W. Shinn
Berkeley.